

WIVENDHOE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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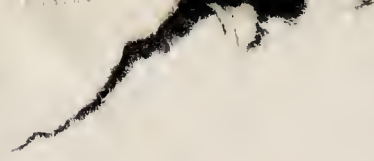
ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SURVEYOR and PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1963





THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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Rebow Chambers,
Colchester.

- MAR 1965

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,


I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1963.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the support of members of the Council and for the co-operation of the staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

E.A. HARGREAVES,
Medical Officer of Health.



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STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health - E.A. HARGREAVES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., (Time shared with two neighbouring Authorities, and the County Council)

Public Health Inspector & Surveyor. - D.F. SWEETING, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

.. COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH.

Public Health Committee - Chairman Councillor W.J. Cracknell.

Highways and Waterworks Committee - Chairman Councillor E.E.J. Westlake

Housing Committee - Chairman Councillor W.J. Bull.

Finance Committee - Chairman Councillor T. Endean.

Public Hall Committee - Chairman Councillor Miss B.A. Grasby.

Chairman of Council - Councillor W.G. Loveless.

Clerk to the Council - W. Trickett, A.C.C.S.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	1,493
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Registrar General's estimate of resident population	1962..	3,030
	1963..	3,300

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1963) according to	
	Rate Book 1,264

Rateable Value	£76,243
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Sum represented by a penny rate	£286
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The district is situated on the east bank of the River Colne where its waters are tidal. It is about four miles down the river from Colchester, and it is also on the main line from London to Clacton-on-Sea. Local industries are shipbuilding, general engineering, agriculture, canning and clothing manufacture. It is also a small yachting and fishing centre. Half the working population find their employment outside the district.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS
OF THE YEAR

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Live Births (all)	45	45	90
(legitimate)	42	41	83
(illegitimate)	3	4	7
illegitimate live births as % of total live births	..	..	8.4%
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	..	..	27.3
Comparability factor .. .. .	..	..	1.08
Corrected rate .. .. .	..	..	29.5
England and Wales .. .. .	..	..	18.2
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Still-births (all)	0	0	2
(legitimate)	0	0	0
(illegitimate)	0	0	0
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..	..	2.2
England and Wales .. .. .	..	..	17.3
Total births .. .. .	..	..	92
Infant Deaths (all)			1
(legitimate)			1
(illegitimate)			0
In first week - All .. .. .	..	..	1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	..	..	2.2
Legitimate infants deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	2.4
Illegitimate infants deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	0
Infant mortality England and Wales	..	..	20.9
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	(illegitimate)	2.4	
	(legitimate)	0	
	(all)	2.2	
Early neonatal mortality rate (first week) per 1,000 related births	(legitimate)	2.4	
	(illegitimate)	0	
	(all)	2.2	
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births plus deaths during first week per 1,000 total live and still-births)	..	..	4.3
Maternal deaths	..	..	0
Maternal mortality rate	..	..	0
Total Deaths M - 15 F - 17 TOTAL - 32	..	..
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	..	..	9.7
Comparability factor	..	..	0.91
Corrected death rate	..	..	8.81
England and Wales	..	..	12.2

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total	1	1	2

Death of Infants under 4 weeks

.. 2

Deaths in various age groups (local statistics).

0 - 1 year	2	35 - 45 years	1
1 - 5 years	1	45 - 55 years	1
5 - 15 years	0	55 - 65 years	4
15 - 25 years	1	65 - 75 years	5
25 - 35 years	0	75 and over	17

Causes of Death

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Malignant neoplasm of lung and bronchus	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm breast	0	1	1
Diabetes	0	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	4	6
Hypertension with heart disease	0	1	1
Coronary disease, angina	6	2	8
Other heart disease	1	0	1
Other circulatory disease	1	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	1	1
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	0	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined disease	1	2	3
Accidents	0	1	1
All causes -	15	17	32

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 - 51

No action under this Act was necessary.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Details of the cases of infectious disease notified are shown below:

Measles 158

Puerperal fever 1

Total number of infectious disease cases 159.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory at the Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

Samples of water are sent to the Public Health Laboratory Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, when a bacteriological analysis is required, and to the Counties Public Health Laboratory, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1 when a chemical or complete analysis is required.

Samples of food and ice cream etc., are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich.

Ambulance Facilities.

Non-emergency calls are not accepted from the general public

To obtain an ambulance in an emergency it is merely necessary to lift the receiver and ask for ambulance.

If there is a dialling system in operation, dial "999" "0" or "01" and ask for ambulance.

HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Ante-Natal and post-natal clinics.

Maternity and child welfare service.

Nursing in the home.

Mental Welfare.

Vaccination and immunisation against

Diphtheria and whooping cough.

Provision of nursing equipment and apparatus.

School Health Service.

Ante-natal and post-natal clinics are held at the Health Services Clinic, Culver Street, Colchester at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Infant welfare clinics are held at the St. John's Ambulance (Wivenhoe) Headquarters on first and third Tuesdays at 1.45 p.m.

Assistance from the Home Help Service is obtained by communicating with the Area Organiser, Area Office, Trinity Street, Colchester, Telephone Colchester 6251, Ext. 3.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Water Supply. This was the first full year in which the Tendring Hundred Waterworks Company had controlled this important service to the District and supplies have continued satisfactorily. The main national issue has been in connection with fluoridation of public supplies but as fluorine is a natural constituent of the local source no action was necessary.

Sewage and Sewerage. An inquiry held into the joint sewage scheme with Colchester Borough Council approval was received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to proceed, and tenders were called for the work in the Autumn. It is hoped that this contract will commence very shortly.

Most of the existing works have been carried out and the long standing difficulty of an irregular overflow from the effluent manhole on the works site was overcome by boring the 620 yard length of cast iron piping from the works to the River wall. This work was carried out by the Contractors assisted by the Council's direct labour in securing additional access points as there was only one central manhole in this pipe. A new tidal flap was fitted to the effluent pipe and the central column and supply pipe to one filter bed was renewed.

Some difficulty was experienced in clearing blocked drainage system for two houses in the High Street which discharge into an old brick culvert in the rear gardens of Park Road properties. The owners of the properties are now considering a new connection to the High Street sewer.

Public Cleansing. Difficulties in keeping the regular staff for this work occurred during the year but in spite of this an improvement in the service was given. The outlying area of the district now receives a fortnightly instead of a four weekly collection, with the weekly collection in the built up area continuing. The fore and aft tipper vehicle purchased at the end of 1962 has given a more hygienic collection of refuse although mechanical difficulties with the diesel engine have occurred.

Petroleum Storage, Moveable Dwelling and Houseboats. The same number of licences were issued for the storage of petroleum, use of moveable dwelling and houseboats. One petroleum store has ceased to be used and another has commenced.

Council House Maintenance. Improvements to the cold water storage tanks in the 1919 houses were made by replacing the iron pipe overflows all of which were badly corroded with polythene tube and fitting all the tanks with purpose made insulation units. The concrete flat roofes of ground floor W.C.'s and lobbies at 16 houses in Britannia Crescent which had become porous have received bituminised treatment. A further extension of 6 garages to the existing block at the bottom of Rosabelle Avenue was carried out, there now being 24 garages all of which are let and the waiting list still increases.

Application to the County Council has been made to erect a 3 storey block of flats on land at the North East corner of Britannia Crescent. The County Council's decision is still awaited. A request from the developer of the Vine Farm Estate to purchase part of housing land in Rectory Road now used for Allotments as an additional southern extension to the Estate was refused by the Council.

Housing. The building rate slightly increased during the year, the development again being mainly on two Estates. 115 dwellings were completed, almost half of these on the Vine Farm Estate, Stage 5 of which has been completed. At the end of the year 70 dwellings were under construction in the District. Once again there has not been any Council House building.

A closing order was made on one dwelling. Two riverside dwellings the subject of long outstanding demolition orders, having during the year been extensively altered and modernised had their closing orders rescinded by the Council. One demolition order issued on a dwelling and the owner at the end of the year was negotiated with the Council to use the premises for purpose other than human habitation.

Approval was given to 13 applications for Standard Grants and £1,050 were paid to owners of 9 properties for works completed. The number of applications being the same and the payments one less than last year.

New Buildings. 141 plans for new buildings or alterations were deposited and approved. Outline plans for an Estate fronting Queen's Road have been received. Detailed plans of the first buildings for the University of Essex have been received and work has commenced on the Science Block and Temporary Huts for the University Library together with alterations to the existing Mansion in Wivenhoe Park.

Roads. Repairs and maintenance continued by direct labour as before. Maintenance in the area below the Railway Line being greater than normal, the Council agreed to a re-surfacing programme to be carried out by Contract labour subject to the approval of the Ministry of Transport together with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for Loan Consent.

Snow clearing at the beginning of the year was extensive and the tipping trailer purchased last year was a great asset. The Council used over 30 cu. yds of sand in this work and were unsuccessful in obtaining any salt. The Council agreed to purchase salt in future for this and a delivery was taken at the end of the year.

The wooden post and chain fence erected in the highway in front of 27 West Street was removed after long negotiations and the Council agreed to consider the laying of a footpath along this side of the road.

A section of highway was taken over by the Council - part of Heath Road and Tower Road which formed the roads of the Busbridge Estate.

The Private Street Works Contract has continued, work being held up by the inclement weather at the beginning of the year. Although there remains much work to be done the general effect in improving the area can be readily seen.

Improvement and additions have continued in the street lighting of the District. The months of June and July work included for lighting the District now being lit throughout the whole year and following a request from the Ministry of Transport additional hours of lighting over the Christmas and new year period were made from 11.00 p.m. to 1.00 a.m.

Food. Three complaints were received concerning food stuffs these involved pickled muscles frozen peas, and pork chipolatas. In each case the matter was taken up with the Manufacturers whose observations were considered by the Council. In view of the minor nature of all the complaints no formal action was taken. 26½ lbs of fore quarter pork including the head was surrendered to the Council because of bone taint. One new registration for the manufacture storage and sale of ice cream and sausages etc., was granted to a Self Service Store and one transfer of registration for the storage and sale of ice cream on the change of occupier of premises.

Private Well Supplies. Six chemical and six bacteriological samples of water from private wells were taken, two wells were found unsatisfactory both bacteriologically and chemically and bacteriologically unsatisfactory. Another sample was fit for consumption but was found to have a detectable taste of copper, the cause of this being plumbing alterations. This copper content decreased after the system had had some months of use. Remedial work to the wells giving satisfactory bacteriological results has taken place. The chemical contamination due to the unusually high Ammoniacal Nitrogen content - this defect only seriously affects children under the age of one in their suffering from Nitrate Methaemoglobinaemia or Well Water Cyanosis. The owner and occupiers of the properties have been informed of this danger but as the main supply is some distance from this area a permanent solution is not practicable. Where children under one year live in these properties arrangements were made for supplies to be collected from elsewhere for their needs. Assistance in the supervision of this work is readily given by the County Council Midwives and Health Visitors.

Wasps. In common with adjoining areas numerous complaints concerning wasps nests were received. These nests were exterminated free of charge.

Prevention of damage by Pests Act 1949.

Properties inspected	42
Major infestation (common rat) found	4
Minor infestation (common rat) found	21
Ship rat infestation found	NIL
Mice infestation found	NIL
Infested properties treated	25
Block control treatments	NIL
Notices served under Section 4	NIL

Atmospheric Pollution. In connection with the National Survey on Atmospheric Pollution the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research have selected Wivenhoe as a suitable location for one of their recorder units. Three sites for the recorder were suggested 1. Ringing Chamber of the Church Tower 2. Primary School 3. Council Offices. The Council approved the siting in the Council Offices and agreed to purchase a recorder when full details were supplied by the D.S.I.R.

Analysis of inspections.

Public Health Act	312	Playing Fields	73
Housing Act	83	Cemetery	50
Water	21	Churchyard	30
Council House maintnce	641	Roads	301
New Buildings	1018	Salvage	15
Sewers	285	Allotments	5
Drain Tests	230	Miscellaneous	40
Refuse	94	Houseboats	8
Street Cleansing	43	Town & Country Planning Acts	59
Street Lighting	89	Food Premises	8
Moveable dwellings	4	Quay Shelter & Seats	14
Town Ditch	4	Housing Applications	3
Private Street Works	84	Petroleum Acts	12
Factories	7	Shops Act	1
Pest Act	3	Highways Act	2
Public Conveniences	14		

Notices Served:

Public Health Act (Informal)	Served	40
" " " "	Abated	35
" " " (Formal)	Served	1
" " " "	Abated	1
Housing Act (Formal)	Served	4
" " "	Abated	3

Factories Act 1937 - 59 Routine inspections have been made during the year, as follows:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>
1. Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	NIL	-
2. Factories not included in 1 in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	9	7	2
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworks premises)	4	NIL	-

Cases in which defects were found.

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective	2	2
Outwork	-	-

Public Hall. At the beginning of the year a start was made in the building of the Public Hall. The Hall was formally opened by Dr. A.E. Sloman, D.Phil, M.A. Vice Chancellor of the University of Essex on Thursday September 12th, a celebration dinner and dance was held on the following Saturday.

Planning. The first Wivenhoe Draft Town Map was introduced by the Area Planning Officer during the year for discussion and recommendations of the Council as a preliminary to the County Councils submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government of a Town Map at some future date.

